

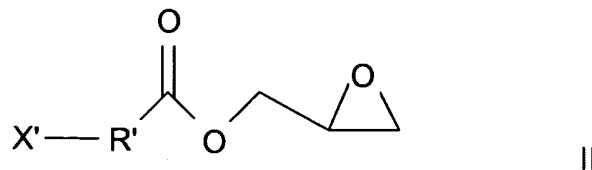
Amendments to the Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** Water-borne paint composition which comprises a binder, a coalescent agent and optionally admixtures and auxiliary agents known *per se*, characterized in that at least 20 % of the film forming agent is formed by a glycidyl ether of formula I



wherein R is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C₃-C₂₀ hydrocarbon and ~~is~~ hydrogen or a hydroxyl group,

or a glycidyl ester of formula II



wherein R' is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C₃-C₂₀ hydrocarbon and X' is a methyl group, a methylene hydroxy group or a carboxyl or lower carboxylate group,

or a mixture thereof, ~~whereby the hydrocarbyl residue of the alcohol or carboxylic acid, respectively of the the ether or ester comprises a linear or branched, unsaturated or saturated hydrocarbon having 3 to 20 carbon atoms.~~

2. **(Currently Amended)** The paint composition according to claim 1, characterized in that it contains 0.01 to 20 wt.-% glycidyl ether and/or ester or admixture thereof based on the dry matter content of the composition.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The paint composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that it contains 3 to 80 wt.-%, ~~in particular 4 to 60 wt.-%~~ of a binder which can be dispersed in water.

4. **(Original)** The paint composition according to claim 3, characterized in that the binder is poly(vinyl acetate), polyacrylate, poly(vinyl alcohol), starch, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose or alkyd.

5. **(Original)** The paint composition according to claim 4, characterized in that the binder forms a hard polymer film when the composition has dried.

6. **(Canceled)**

7. **(Previously Amended)** The paint composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the hydrocarbon residue of the glycidyl ether is derived from 1-butanol, 2-butanol, isobutanol, 1-pentanol, isopentanol, 1-hexanol, 2-ethylhexanol, 1-heptanol, 1-octanol, 2-ethyl-1,3-hexanediol, neopentyl glycol, 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol, trimethylol ethane, trimethylol propane, 1,4-butanediol, neodecane alcohol, 1,6-hexanediol, 1,10-decanediol or 2-ethyl-2-hexen-1-ol.

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Previously Amended)** The paint composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the carboxylic acid residue of the glycidyl ester is derived from butanoic acid, isobutanoic acid, pentanoic acid, isopentanoic acid, 1-hexanoic acid, 2-ethylhexanoic acid, heptanoic acid, octanoic acid, neodecanoic acid, 2-hydroxy-isobutanoic acid, 2,2-dimethyl-3-hydroxypropanoic acid, 2-ethyl-2-hexenoic acid, oleic acid, linolic acid, adipic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid or an anhydride or another derivative thereof.

10. **(Previously Amended)** The paint composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the coalescent agent is 2-ethylhexylglycidyl ether, octyl glycidyl ether, mono- or diether of neopentylglycol or triglycidyl ether of trimetanolpropane, or 2-ethylhexyl glycidyl ester, octyl glycidyl ester or isopentyl glycidyl ester or methyl glycidyl ester of glutaric acid.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The paint composition according to claim 1, characterized in that its pH is below about 8.5, ~~preferably below 8.0.~~

12. **(Currently Amended)** The paint composition according to claim 1, characterized in that it contains in addition to the glycidyl ether ~~and/or ester~~ or admixture thereof, at least one other coalescent agent, the proportion of the glycidyl ether ~~and/or ester~~ or admixture thereof of the coalescent agents of the composition amounting to at least 20 wt.-%, ~~preferably at least 50 wt.-%.~~

13. **(Currently Amended)** The paint composition according claim 12, characterized in that the other film forming agent is the phenyl ether of ethyleneglycol, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol monoisobutyrate ~~and/or~~ n-butyl ether acetate of diethyleneglycol.

14. **(Currently Amended)** Method of accelerating the hardening of an aqueous paint composition containing binder, coalescent agent and optionally admixtures and auxiliary agents known *per se*, characterized by incorporating into the composition a glycidyl ether or ester or a mixture thereof, wherein the hydrocarbyl residue of the alcohol or carboxylic acid, respectively, of the ether or ester comprises a linear or branched, unsaturated or saturated hydrocarbon having 3 to 20 carbon atoms, the proportion of the glycidyl ether ~~and/or ester~~ or admixture thereof being at least 20 wt.-% of the film forming agents of the paint composition.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 14, characterized by incorporating at least 50 wt.-% of a glycidyl ether and/or ester or admixture thereof, whereby the paint composition attains at least 70% of its final hardness within a day.

AI 16. **(Currently Amended)** A method for forming films ~~Use of a glycidyl ether or ester as film-forming agent~~ in aqueous paint compositions; comprising admixing a glycidyl said ether or ester or a mixture thereof with a latex dispersion, wherein said ether or ester contains a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbyl residue having comprising 3 to 20 hydrocarbyl residues with 3 to 20 carbon atoms which isare linked to the glycidyl group via an ether or ester bond.

17. (New) The paint composition according to claim 3, wherein said binder is 4 to 60 wt.-%.

18. (New) The paint composition according to claim 1, wherein said C₂-C₂₀ hydrocarbon of said formula II contains one or several hydroxyl groups.

19. (New) The paint composition according to claim 11, wherein said pH is below about 8.0.

20. (New) The paint composition according to claim 1, wherein said C₃-C₂₀ hydrocarbon of said formula I contains one or several hydroxyl groups.

21. (New) The paint composition according to claim 12, wherein said coalescent agents amount to at least 50 wt.-%.